

North Carolina Family Caregiver Support Program Caregiver Vignettes

Region: G	Relationship to care recipient: daughter
Service Category(ies): II-Information and Assistance	Service Year: 2004-2005
Caregiver age: 54	Submitted By: Blair Barton-Percival
Care recipient age: 84	Phone: 336-294-4950

Family situation:

Susan is the 54 year-old caregiver to her 84 year-old mother, Margaret. Susan has provided 24-hour care to her mother for 10 years. Margaret had a stroke that left her paralyzed and totally dependent on others for assistance. Margaret also has congestive heart failure. Margaret was eligible for CAP/DA for a period of time, but due to some financial issues she was terminated from the program leaving the burden of care solely on Susan.

Intervention(s):

The social worker provided support to Susan and assisted her in obtaining personal care items, blue pads and adult diapers for Margaret. Also, the social worker referred Susan and her mother to hospice, who is currently working with the couple.

Outcomes

Susan was very appreciative of the assistance provided to her through the Family Caregiver Support Program. Determining that all their needs are being met, the social worker bid this caregiver and care recipient 'adieu.'

Caregiver or others' quotes/comments:

North Carolina Family Caregiver Support Program Caregiver Vignettes

Region: G	Relationship to care recipient: spouse
Service Category(ies): II-Information and Assistance	Service Year: 2004-2005
Caregiver age: 55	Submitted By: Blair Barton-Percival
Care recipient age: 65	Phone: 336-294-4950

Family situation:

Laura and Ed arrived at the office seeking help for financial assistance. After a coordinator spoke with them, many other difficulties were presented. Laura, 65, is legally blind and had her right leg amputated. Her main concern was to find out how to get funds to move out of the home that she and Ed own, for the medical problems (upcoming eye surgery and learning to use prosthesis), and debt accrued because of medical expenses. Also, Ed is recently unemployed which has put a strain on their marriage. She wants some space to assess her life and see if she wants to remain in the relationship.

Ed, 55, is struggling with all of the above stress and the additional stress of taking care of Laura. He cleans, cooks, transports Laura to doctor appointments, shops, manages Laura's medications and assists Laura with bathing and dressing. Being unemployed is very hard for Ed and he wanted information on how to find out about computer training so he could enhance his employment skills and be more marketable. Both Laura and Ed are in personal counseling and will seek marriage counseling at a later date.

Intervention(s):

The coordinator spoke with Laura and Ed individually and then as a couple. Information was given to them regarding housing options, financial assistance, food programs, employment programs and computer training. Referrals were made to Family Services for emotional/family financial counseling, Senior AIDES Program for assistance in job search, Housing Authority, Advocacy Project for Persons with Disabilities, Blind Services, Salvation Army and Urban Ministry. A \$50 gift card was given to them to assist with medication needs.

Outcomes

Ed and Laura both appreciated the assistance they received and have followed-up on some programs after their first meeting. Ed made an appointment to see the Senior AIDES director for assistance with his job search.

Caregiver or others' quotes/comments:

Laura expressed the couples' feelings by saying, "I really appreciate the information you have given us. I didn't know all of these programs were available. **It gives me hope.**"

North Carolina Family Caregiver Support Program Caregiver Vignettes

Region: G	Relationship to care recipient: daughter
Service Category(ies): II-Information and Assistance & IV-Respite	Service Year: 2004-2005
Caregiver age: 54	Submitted By: Blair Barton-Percival
Care recipient age: 76	Phone: 336-294-4950

Family situation:

Melanie is the 54 year-old caregiver of her 76 year-old mother, Mildred. Mildred has been diagnosed with dementia of the Alzheimer's type and Parkinson's Disease. Melanie had cared for her mother for almost 4 years and was in desperate need of respite care. Finances were limited as Mildred was left with many medical bills from her deceased spouse.

Intervention(s):

After talking with Melanie and confirming she was interested in her mother attending a group respite program, the social worker applied for grant money through the Alzheimer Family Relief Fund and obtained \$750 to pay for respite care.

Outcomes

Mildred was able to attend the group respite program and give Melanie a much needed break. Many days Melanie was at her wits end as the caregiving burden wore on her nerves. Melanie appreciated the needed time away from her mother and stated she always felt she was in good hands and was cared for when she was at the program.

Caregiver or others' quotes/comments:

North Carolina Family Caregiver Support Program Caregiver Vignettes

Region: G	Relationship to care recipient: spouse
Service Category(ies): II-Information and Assistance	Service Year: 2004-2005
Caregiver age: 80	Submitted By: Blair Barton-Percival
Care recipient age: 85	Phone: 336-294-4950

Family situation:

Helen is an 80 year-old caregiver to her spouse, 85 year-old Ray. Ray is legally blind, has heart problems, diabetes, a history of strokes, kidney problems and ambulates with the assistance of a walker. Helen has a mitral valve prolapse, back problems, and arthritis. Helen has been the caregiver for 4 years. When the social worker first met with Helen she was facing many caregiver issues and was desperate for respite care. Helen was feeling guilty about wanting and needing time for herself.

Intervention(s):

The social worker provided support to Helen and frequently reminded her that caring for herself would make her a more effective caregiver to her husband. Ray was unwilling to go to adult day care or to go to a group respite program. He did agree to let someone come into their home and provide some relief to Helen. The social worker initiated paperwork with the VA for in-home respite care.

Outcomes

With much persistence and many phone calls, in-home respite services through the VA began 17 business days after initiating paperwork. Helen was very grateful for the assistance provided to her so freely.

Caregiver or others' quotes/comments:

North Carolina Family Caregiver Support Program Caregiver Vignettes

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Service Category(ies): II-Information and Assistance	Service Year: 2004-2005
Caregiver age: 80	Submitted By: Blair Barton-Percival
Care recipient age: 85	Phone: 336-294-4950

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